



Urban District Council
OF ELLAND.

Annual Report
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND THE
SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

FOR 1908.

ELLAND.

MARMADUKE PILLING, PRINTER, CENTRAL HALL.

1909.





Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b29190228>

Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Urban
District Council of Elland.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting my Report for 1908, which, whether we consider the mortality rates or the amount of preventable sickness prevailing, you will I think agree with me is of an altogether satisfactory character, and I feel confident that if the progressive spirit which animates every member of your Council continues, the Sanitary conditions will go on steadily improving, to the greater happiness and comfort of the whole community. We have owing to your foresight and that of your predecessors every advantage and means of bringing about these desirable results. The Water Supply of your district is good and ample; We have a fairly good and gradually improving system of Sewerage and Sewage Disposal, the Scavenging of the district, carried out by the Sanitary Staff is efficient, and by the aid of the Water Carriage System and the Refuse Destructor, all the refuse of the town is effectually carried away and treated, or destroyed by fire. I regret that the Public Baths erected at so great a cost are not used and appreciated as was expected, still to some extent they supply a public want and will no doubt grow in favour and usefulness as time goes on.

I estimate the population on which the following figures are based as 10,550.

202 births were registered during the year, 102 of which were males and 100 females, at the low rate of 19.14 per 1,000 as compared with 26.5 for England and Wales, the average for Elland for the last ten years was 21.22 per 1,000. It is rather remarkable that while the birth rate in the 76 great towns was last year 27.0 per 1,000, the rates as reported from so many Urban Districts are so low and the signs are evident and significant, that we may not yet, have reached the bottom.

DEATH RATE.

107 deaths occurred in the district during the year, at the rate of 10.14 per 1,000, this is the lowest death rate ever recorded in this district and is some set-off and consolation for the decline in the number of births. 16 deaths of residents occurred in Public Institutions beyond the district, making a total of 123 at the rate of 11.65 per 1,000, as compared with 14.7 for England and Wales, and this latter is also the lowest ever recorded. Of the deaths registered 5 were due to the principal Zymotic diseases, viz : One each from Whooping Cough, Diphtheria, and Enteric Fever, and two from Diarrhœa, at the rate of 0.47, as compared with 1.29 for England and Wales.

20 children under one year of age died during the year, at the rate of 99.01 of births registered, as compared with 121 for the whole country, and compared with 112.73, the average infantile mortality rate for the last ten years for Elland. This is a very satisfactory result of the efforts that have been made for the last few years, to instruct the Mothers of the newly born as to the best means of bringing up their children, and of the revived and general interest taken of recent years by almost every community in this matter of such vital importance to the future interests of the country.

TABLE.

Showing Mortality at subjoined ages.

At all ages.	Under 1 Year.	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards.	Deaths in public Institutions in district.
123	20	4	7	7	45	40	0

The only Public Institution in this district is the Small-Hospital at Hollin Heys which serves a combination of districts and has happily been unoccupied during the year.

TABLE 2.

The causes of the Mortality from all diseases will be seen in the following table.

Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	I
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	I
Enteric Fever	-	-	-	-	I
Diarrhœa	-	-	-	-	2
Enteritis	-	-	-	-	I
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	-	-	-	-	10
Other Tubercular Diseases	-	-	-	-	6
Cancer	-	-	-	-	8
Bronchitis	-	-	-	-	13
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	5
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs	-	-	-	-	2
Alcoholism	}				
Cirrhosis of Liver	}	-	-	-	2
Venereal Diseases		-	-	-	I
Premature Birth	-	-	-	-	3
Diseases and Accidents of Parturition	-	-	-	-	3
Heart Diseases	-	-	-	-	17
Accidents	-	-	-	-	3
Suicides	-	-	-	-	2
All other causes	-	-	-	-	42

There is only one cause of death in the above Table to which I think it necessary to call your special attention, and that is the 16 deaths caused by Tubercular Diseases more especially Pulmonary Tuberculosis. These diseases are proved to be preventable and curable in their early stages. The deaths from these diseases occurring as they do in excessive and I fear increasing numbers, year by year, are a great blot and disgrace on our boasted sanitation and civilization, which I hope your Council will take immediate steps to deal with, in the first place by instituting and paying for a system of voluntary notification and urging on the County Council the immediate necessity of providing for the Riding a Sanitorium for the free treatment of this disease. Till these preliminary steps are taken, in my opinion, no amount of disinfection of premises or things, or distribution of advisory Circulars, or the providing of spittoons, or visits of health officers can be of any real avail. The disease must be tackled at the root, by in the first place finding out where it exists, then removing the affected persons for suitable treatment. The other measures indicated will follow as a matter of course with I believe the most beneficent results.

In this district Public and Private Charities have done a great deal of good in the past year or two in combating this fell disease, and alleviating the sufferings of those affected, but the ravages of the disease have obviously outgrown the efforts of private benevolence and the time has arrived when the Public Sanitary Authorities should be called upon to act.

TABLE 4.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year.

	At all ages	Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65	65 and up- wards
Diphtheria...				3	1	2	
(Including Membra- nous Croup.)							
Erysipelas ...						6	
Scarlet Fever			1	2	2		
Enteric Fev'r				1	1	3	
Totals ...	22	0	1	6	4	11	0

As you will see by the above Table only 22 cases of Infectious Disease were notified during the year, this constitutes another record; never since the passing of the Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act, 1889, have so few cases been recorded, which bears out the opening statement in this report, that you have every reason to be satisfied that your efforts to improve the Sanitary condition of your district have not been made in vain.

Of the six cases of Diphtheria reported only one proved fatal; these cases like those of Scarlet Fever and Enteric Fever were not confined to any one locality, nor could any definite cause or causes be assigned for their occurrence. One of the Professors connected with the Gilchrist Trust, lecturing in Elland during the year, drew the attention of the public to the value of Antitoxin in the treatment of Diphtheria and explained the

manner in which it acts, and the source of its supply ; I might take this opportunity of saying that your Council has for some years kept in stock and provided free of cost to those in poor circumstances, a supply of Autitoxin for the treatment of this disease, and I have every reason to believe that by this means many lives have been saved to the community and much sorrow and suffering averted.

TABLE 5.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1908 and previous years.

Year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	BIRTHS.		DEATHS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE		DEATHS AT ALL AGES TOTAL.		Deaths in Public Institutions.	Deaths of non-residents registered in district.	Deaths of residents registered beyond district.	Deaths at all ages.	
		Number	Rate*	Number	Rate per 1,000 Births registrd	Number	Rate*				Number	Rate*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1898	10,300	250	24.27	43	170.00	144	13.98					
1899	10,300	260	25.24	30	115.37	129	12.52					
1900	10,400	203	19.51	30	147.78	155	14.90	0	0	9	164	15.76
1901	10,412	216	20.74	31	143.51	135	12.96	0	9	5	140	13.44
1902	10,450	235	22.48	22	93.66	142	13.58	2	2	4	144	13.77
1903	10,450	225	21.53	17	75.55	139	13.30	3	2	5	142	13.58
1904	10,490	232	22.11	19	81.89	149	14.20	3	3	5	151	14.39
1905	10,490	183	17.44	18	97.81	110	10.48	2	2	10	120	11.43
1906	10,490	230	21.92	22	95.65	144	13.72	0	0	10	154	14.68
1907	10,512	179	17.02	19	106.14	111	10.55	0	0	23	134	12.74
Averages for years 1898-1907.												
	10,429	221.3	21.22	25.1	112.73	135.8	13.01					
1908	10,550	202	19.14	20	99.01	107	10.14	0	0	16	123	11.65

* Rates in Columns 4, 8, and 13 calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water.) 1,992.

Total population at all ages	10,412	At Census of 1901.
Number of inhabited houses	...	...	2,452
Average number of persons per house	...	...	4.24

Further extensions of a more efficient system of sewerage have been made during the year in accordance with your well defined policy that some improvement should be made each year, till the whole system is rendered efficient. This is important in view of the fact that the water carriage system for the removal of excreta is the adopted one, and is being pushed with vigour.

In my report for 1907, I recommended your Council to seek the consent of the Local Government Board to make certain sections of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, applicable to this district, I am glad to say that you have taken this step and hope that before long these sections of the Act will be in force, thereby strengthening your hands in dealing with several matters of great importance that are constantly arising.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.

Special attention has again been devoted during the year to the condition of these, by your Sanitary Inspector ; they have been systematically inspected and a report made monthly to your Sanitary Committee ; many defects have been remedied and many samples of the milk supplied, submitted to the Public Analyst for examination. Your Council is rightly determined that the Regulations governing these places shall be rigidly enforced. It is above all things necessary that our food supply should be clean and unadulterated, more particularly so Milk, which is the principal food of the young and therefore of those who depend upon you for protection in this all important matter.

Factory and Workshops Act, 1901.

20 Factories and 15 Workshops have been inspected during the year. In five Cases defects in Sanitary accommodation were found, these have been remedied; in one case a breach of Sanitary requirements was found in a bakehouse, this has also been remedied.

In regard to both Factories and Workshops the standard of suitability adopted as to closet accommodation is Water Carriage. As to sufficiency each case is dealt with on its merits.

The four underground bakehouses were inspected and certificates granted.

We have no outworkers such as the Act applies to in this district.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

ROBT. N. DENNING,

March 25th, 1909.

Medical Officer of Health.



ANNUAL REPORT
 OF THE
SANITARY INSPECTOR.

To the Chairman and Members of the Urban
 District Council of Elland.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my report for the year 1908.

REMOVAL OF NIGHTSOIL, ASHES, &c.

MONTH.	To Destructor	To Tips and on Land.	Van loads of Nightsoil.
January	220	20	35
February ...	182	47	28
March	73	50	28
April	159	52	32
May	244	63	31
June	157	48	28
July	149	64	35
August	99	57	28
September ..	131	31	28
October	89	77	35
November ...	131	20	28
December ...	143	31	32
Totals	1777	560	368

The number of loads to Destructor are less than the previous year (370) although the loads to tips are more. This is accounted for by the tins, pots, etc., being sorted out from the ashes while collecting, and taken to the tip.

Destructor.

The Destructor has been pulled down and re-erected in a separate building, owing to the increased demand for electricity, the present Lancashire Boiler being coal-fired, another Boiler has been erected for the (rebuilt) destructor. The ashes taken down during this period have been tipped close at hand, and will be destroyed during the coming year.

Cowsheds.

The Cowsheds have been systematically inspected, and the following are the defects remedied :—

Defective Drainage	...	...	...	7
Insufficient Air space	...	...	...	9
Want of Limewashing	...	...	...	5
Pigs kept in Cowshed	...	...	...	1
Defective manure places	...	...	...	2
Privy in communication with Cowshed	...			1

Milk Samples.

During the year 24 Milk Samples have been taken from milk dealers, both in the town, and dealers coming in from outside districts. One sample was below the standard required by the Board of Agriculture, and two were of poor quality. In each case a letter of caution was sent to the vendors.

Sewer Extension.

A 12 inch earthenware pipe Sewer has been extended in Huddersfield Road to Storth, a distance of 510 yards. There are 3 Manholes, and 3 Lampholes in this length.

Closet Accommodation.

Insanitary Privies converted on to the water carriage System.

	W.C's.	Tipplr	Total.	
1903	14	8	22	
1904	48	29	77	
1905	110	12	122	
1906	52	16	68	
1907	33	1	34	
1908	47	5	52	
	304	71	375	Total

Summary of Nuisances, Visits, etc. during 1908.

Choked drains	...	...	...	...	32
Sink Wastes not disconnected	...	...	...	...	19
Tippler closets out of order	...	...	...	...	21
Defective soil pipes	...	...	...	...	3
Untrapped gullies	...	...	...	...	5
Ashpit without door	...	...	...	...	1
Accumulation of manure	...	...	...	...	2
Insanitary privies	...	...	...	...	41
Insufficient closet accommodation	...	...	...	...	2
Offensive cesspools	...	...	...	...	4
Pigs kept too near dwellinghouse	...	...	...	...	1
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	1
Houses disinfected	...	...	...	...	20
Smoke observations taken	...	...	...	...	29
Notices and letters served	...	...	...	...	58
No. of visits with respect to nuisances	...	...	...	...	536
,,	,,	,,	infectious diseases	...	32
,,	,,	,,	Cowsheds	...	210

I am,

gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

March 25th, 1909.

F. W. TILLOTSON.

TABLE C., 1908.**ELLAND URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT.**

Medical Officer of Health—R. N. DENNING, M.D.

Sanitary Inspector—F. W. TILLOTSON, A.R.S.I.

Water Supply—

Any development during 1908?—Mains relaid, Commercial street, 3 in. to 6 in., Dewsbury road, 4 in. to 6 in., Quebec street, 3 in to 6 in.. Elland lane 4 in. to 6 in.

Developments still needed?—Eastgate, Saddleworth road and portion of Huddersfield road.

Has public supply been continuous?—Yes.

Any complaint as to action on lead?—No.

Any samples tested for lead during 1908?—Yes.

Result— $\frac{1}{5}$ th grain per gallon.

Sewerage—

Developments during 1908—Extension of Huddersfield road Sewer, 510 yards.

Developments still needed—Substitutions of Piped instead of Walled Sewers in many streets.

Any complaints as to offensive Manholes—A few.

Sewage Disposal—

Any complaint as to outfall works—No.

Scavenging—

Performed by—Own Staff.

Annual Cost—£300.

Any inadequacy, and where—No.

Bye-Laws—

Any adopted or sanctioned during 1908—No.

Adoptive Acts—

Any steps taken for the consideration, adoption, or application of—

(a) Notification of Births Act, 1907—No steps taken

(b) Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907—Under consideration.

What sections—Parts 2, 3, 5, 6, and Sections of Parts 4 and 10.

Regulated Buildings, Trades, etc.	No. in District	No. on register	Total No. of insp't'ns made.	General Condition.	Legal proceed- ings (if any)
Common Lodging Houses	—	—	—		
Canal Boats	7	7	—		
Slaughter Houses	8	8	16	Fair	
Cowsheds	70	86	210	See Report	
Offensive Trades... (please specify nature)	5	5	5	3 Tripe boiling 1 Soap boiling 1 Oil Extractor	

Any nuisance from fish-frying—No.

Cowsheds.

Any special inspection made during 1908—Yes.

Any action taken by outside authorities, *e.g.*, under 'Milk Clauses' concerning milk supplied from this district—No.

Infectious Disease—

Any suspected spread by rats, dogs, cats, fowls, flies or fleas—No.

How is infected clothing dealt with—Sent to Steam Disinfecter at Halifax.

Isolation Hospital—

Any observation on adequacy or efficiency—No.

Schools—

Any ailment or contagious disease associated particularly with school-life during 1908—No.

Midwives Act, 1902—

Are there any uncertified women attending confinements without a doctor—Not that I am aware of

Dwellings—

Number of houses built during 1908—17.

General Character—Through.

Do the new houses accord with Bye-Laws—Yes.

Who sees plans—Surveyor.

Any occupied houses unfit for habitation—No.

Any overcrowding of persons in houses—One.

Any action taken under the Housing of the Working Classes Acts—No.

Is house-to-house inspection systematically made—No.

Are records kept—No.

Infantile Mortality—

What organised effort to control it—Parents instructed by pamphlets.

Do you recommend appointment of Health Visitors
No.

Prevention of Consumption.

Any system of notification—Under consideration.

Any Sanitary Inspection of Patients' Houses—No

Any Disinfection of ditto—Yes, after death.

Any distribution of advice—Under consideration.

Any action *re* Spitting—No.

Any Disinfection of public rooms, vehicles, etc—No.

Nuisances—

Total No. of Nuisances in hand at close of 1907—42.

At close of 1908—20.

Reported during 1908—134.

Abated during 1908—114.

Total No. of Legal Notices served for Abatement of
Nuisances during 1908—6.

Total No. of Summons or other Legal proceedings
—None.

No. of Sink wastes disconnected during 1908—19.

Trapped—19.

No. of Closets newly constructed during 1908—21.

Kinds—19 W.C's., 2 Tipplers.

No. of Closets reconstructed during 1908—52.

Kinds—47 W.C's., 5 Tipplers.

No. of House-drains tested—3.

What method adopted—Smoke.

Meteorology—

Rainfall—31.81.

What action has been taken in regard to the following matters?

Seizures of Unsound Food—None.

Prosecutions—None.

Samples under Sale of Food and Drugs Act—24.

Prosecutions—None, (3 cautions)

No. of Smoke Observations taken—29.

Legal Notices—None.

Summons—None.

No. of Allotments provided under the Acts or otherwise during 1908—Nil.

Births during 1908.

Males—102.

Females—100.

Total—202.

Number illegitimate, included in above—7.

Number of Still Births (not included)—No record.

Deaths during 1908.

(1) Gross Deaths, *i.e.*, Total actually registered in the district, without any correction—107.

(2) Nett Deaths, on which the rates are calculated
—Males—64—Females 59—123.

Number uncertified, included in the above—Nil.

Sanitary Requirements of District, and Suggestions of Medical Officer of Health.

See Text of Report.

